language satellite channels of Doordarshan have been in operation since 1st February, 1994:—

Doordarshan—IV

Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu.

Doordarshan—V

Assamese, Bangla and Oriya.

Doordarshan—VI

Gujarati, Kashmiri, Marathi and Punjabi.

(c) The reach of Doordarshan is being constantly increased through an expansion of its network. Simultaneously its programming is also being so structured to cater to the widest cross section of the population.

Expanding TV Network for Screening Foreign Programmes

125. SHRI MENTAY PADMANSBHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent Government have met the challenges of foreign TV;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the new TV programmes are foreign serials; and

(c) if so, whether it is necessary to expand our TV network for screening foreign programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Despite the multiplicity of programming choice available today from varied sources, the programmes shown on the channels of Doordarshan continue to enjoy the highest viewership in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Impact of the entry of Foreign Media

126. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any representations from the Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ) over the "open sesame policy" of allowing foreign media into the country;

(b) if so, what is the reaciton of Government thereon; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to consider the impact of the entry of foreign media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing policies of the Government restrict publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in India and publication of Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals. Besides foreign news agencies are required to operate their news services in the country only through Indian news agencies.

Scrapping of Censorship of Children's Films

127. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the head of Children's Film Society has recommended scrapping censorship;

(b) if so, whether he is advocating the showing of violence and vulgar scenes to children; and

(c) whether any explanation has been sought from this Government appointtee in this regard?